

Message Text

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41

ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8215

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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MOSCOW AND BUCHAREST FOR DR. BILLINGTON OF BFS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC YO

SUBJ: AYEC MEETING

REF: STATE 231060 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AYEC BOARD MET SEP 21 BUT UNABLE
RESOLVE QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS.
YUGOSLAV SIDE UNWILLING DISCUSS WORKABLE
COMPROMISE, INSISTING QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE MUST BE
RESOLVED BEFORE NUMBERS COULD BE WORKED OUT. FAISECTC
HAD PRESENTED NOTE TO EMBASSY ON TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS
LESS THAN ONE WORKING DAY BEFORE MEETING. SINCE
US SIDE HAD NOT HAD TIME STUDY NOTE, YUGOSLAV SIDE
SUGGESTED DISCUSSION BE POSTPONED UNTIL OCT 8.
END SUMMARY.

1. FULBRIGHT COMMISSION (AYEC) MET SEP 21 TO
CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF DISPOSITION OF TRAVEL-ONLY
GRANTS FOR 1976/77 PROGRAM YEAR. YUGOSLAV SIDE,
IN EFFECT GOING BACK TO ORIGINAL POSITION, PROPOSED
THAT 21 GRANTS BE AWARDED TO YUGOSLAVS IN SCIENCE,
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7 TO THOSE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND 5 TO AMERICAN

GRANTEES, INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM ASU AND CHICL STATE AND PROFESSOR DANNENBURG. THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR 33 GRANTS OUT OF THE POSSIBLE 40 FOR WHICH FUNDS AVAILABLE.

2. US SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF FAISECTC NOTE ON TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS (SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL) BUT POINTED OUT THAT NOTE RECEIVED LATE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY, SEP 17, AND THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US SIDE TO GIVE NOTE THE CONSIDERATION IT DESERVED AND PREPARE REPLY. SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF NOTE BE DEFERRED TO ANOTHER TIME.

3. US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF PROSPECTIVE YUGOSLAV GRANTEES HAD ALREADY TRAVELED, THUS COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO ASK FOR RETROACTIVE GRANTS WHICH ARE AGAINST BFS POLICY EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES. DOUBTED IF PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH COMMISSION FINDS ITSELF COULD BE TERMED "EMERGENCY" SINCE COMMISSION HAD HAD TWO MONTHS SINCE LAST MEETING IN WHICH TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE FIND CONVENIENT DATE FOR MEETING.

4. US SIDE PROPOSED THAT FOUR GRANTS BE AWARDED NOW TO GRANTEES WHO HAD NOT YET TRAVELED (THREE IN SCIENCE, AND ONE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE), AND THAT TWO MORE BE RESERVED TO ASSIST YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION IN SEMINAR ON YUGOSLAV LITERATURE BEING ORGANIZED BY PROFESSOR LORD OF HARVARD NEXT MAY. THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT PREJUDICING IN ANY WAY RESOLUTION OF QUESTION OF BALANCE IN TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS OR PROGRAM AS A WHOLE, AND WOULD PERMIT COMMISSION TO EXPEND AT LEAST SOME OF TRAVEL-ONLY FUNDS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE LOST. (YUGOSLAV SIDE APPEARS CONCERNED THAT COMMISSION UNEXPENDED FUNDS INCLUDING SOME GOY CONTRIBUTION, WILL REVERT PHYSICALLY TO US TREASURY). COMMISSION COULD THEN ADDRESS ITSELF TO POLICY ISSUE AND PERHAPS BE ABLE RETURN GRANTS TO THOSE CANDIDATES ALREADY IN US IF QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION RESOLVED IN TIME, THUS AVOIDING NECESSITY OF ASKING BFS TO APPROVE RETRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVE GRANTS.

5. FAISECTC REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THAT US SUGGESTION DID NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO BASIC POINT AT ISSUE, I.E., OVER-ALL BALANCE IN DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS, AND WHEN US SIDE ASKED FOR SUGGESTION FROM YUGOSLAV SIDE, HE RESPONDED THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL US SIDE HAD HAD TIME TO STUDY FAISECTC NOTE. ALSO

INDICATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR OVERALL SOLUTION OF PROBLEM, NOT PIECE-MEAL (I.E. ISSUING THOSE GRANTS NOW ON WHICH AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED, AND DISCUSSING OTHERS LATER.)

6. US SIDE AGREED TO THIS AS LONG AS BOTH SIDES REALIZED THEY JEOPARDIZING CHANCES OF ALL GRANTEEES BY POSTPONING DISCUSSION. AGAIN NOTED THAT SINCE COMMISSION HAD NOT FOLLOWED PROGRAM PLAN IN AWARDING FULL GRANTS, IT UNDER MORAL OBLIGATION TO ATTEMPT TO REDRESS BALANCE BY AWARDING TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS MORE OR LESS EVENLY BETWEEN MAJOR DISCIPLINES.

7. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO MEET FRIDAY, OCT 8, TO AGAIN DISCUSS MATTER, AT WHICH TIME DR. BILLINGTON OF BFS WAS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT.

8. COMMENT: WE EXPECTED THAT DISCUSSIONS AT THIS MEETING WOULD GET NOWHERE, BUT IT INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT YUGOSLAV SIDE REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT AND EVEN ENSURED IT BY DELIVERING FAISECTC NOTE (DATED SEP 15) TOO LATE FOR US SIDE TO PREPARE REPLY. ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS SHOWED NOT SLIGHTEST INDICATION THEY WILLING COMPROMISE OR REACH ACCOMMODATION WITH US SIDE. SUMMARY OF PAISECTC NOTE AND OUR PROPOSAL REPLY WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL. AS FAR AS PROSPECTIVE US GRANTEEES CONCERNED, SINCE APPEARS COMMISSION UNABLE ACT ON THEIR REQUESTS, POST SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ISSUING THEM TRAVEL GRANTS DIRECTLY AND TAKE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM AMOUNT DEPARTMENT SETTING ASIDE AS DOLLAR SUPPORT FOR 1977/78 YUGOSLAV FULL GRANTS. DO NOT WISH TO SEE US GRANTEEES INCONVENIENCED BECAUSE OF PRESENT IMBROGLIO, BUT BELIEVE PRINCIPLES IN QUESTION, I.E., THAT SOCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCIENCES BE GIVEN INCREASED, BALANCED, EMPHASIS IN FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AND THAT ACTUAL PROGRAM RESEMBLE PROGRAM PLAN AT LEAST SLIGHTLY, TOO IMPORTANT FOR US SIDE OF COMMISSION TO RETREAT FROM ITS POSITION IN ORDER TO ASSURE GRANTS FOR US TRAVEL-ONLY CANDIDATES.
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